THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The escalators, at present, are under overhauling and upgradation and are likely to be put into operation shortly. In the absence of escalators, lifts are in use at the IGI airport to facilitate passengers.

(d) Does not arise.

World Class Transhipment Cargo Hub in Delhi

5348. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India plan to create a world class transhipment hub air cargo in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it is proposed to be financed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is going to appoint a consultant to advise on the modalities of setting up of the proposed JV Parallel Cargo Terminal and development of Delhi as a major transhipment hub.

Refusal by AI Pilots to take-off Plane after Emergency stop

5349. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India pilots refuse to fly after plane makes emergency stop for ailing passenger as happened on 14th February, 2000 on Dubai-Cochin flight;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Flight No. AI 700 flying between Dubai and Cochin on February 14, 2000 made an unscheduled landing at Mumbai due to medical emergency of one of the passengers. In view of the airplane having landed at Mumbai which is Air India's base, the first officer refused to operate the flight to Cochin by taking recourse to clause 4.2 of DGCA circular No. A/C 28 of 1992 on Flight and Duty Time Limitation for flying crew which states that The Air Carrier

shall give each flight crew upon return to base from any flight or series of flight, a rest period that is at least twice the total number of hours of his flight time while he was away from the base.

(c) The Management has had a constructive dialogue with the Pilots.

Expansion of AIR Services from Guwahati

5350. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3224 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th April, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to link Jorhat, Tezpur, Silchar and Dibrugarh with Guwahati by Indian Airlines; and

(b) the reasons for not connecting Guwahati Airport with every airport of North-Eastern Region by Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Constraints of aircraft capacity with Indian Airlines does not permit introduction of any other new links in the North Eastern Region.

ATC Modernisation Programme

5351. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the ATC modernisation programme at major Indian Airports;

(b) whether the modernisation programme is progressing as per schedule or are there any delays; and

(c) in case there are delays, the reasons therefor and what effect the delays had on the budgeted cost?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Modernisation of equipment and upgradation of facilities at airports is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon the requirement and availability of resources. Modernisation of ATC systems at Delhi and Mumbai has already been completed in January, 1999 and November, 1999 respectively. There were delays in Modernisation of ATC system at Delhi & Mumbai Airports due to following reasons:—